

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

Abstract

The invention relates to a ~~A~~ debarking mechanism (4) for the excortication or pretreatment of trees (2) for separately performed final barking and for the expulsion of at least some of the removed barks from a wood flow passing through the debarking mechanism, ~~said the~~ debarking mechanism ~~comprising~~ including a number of rotatable debarking shafts (3, 3') extending parallel to an advancing direction (A) of the trees (2) to be fed therethrough, which are provided with a number of teeth (4) extending beyond the circumferential surface of the shaft (3, 3') and adapted to strip bark off the presently processed trees (2) transversely to the lengthwise direction of the trees and at the same time to convey the trees transversely relative to said shafts (3, 3'), and ~~said the~~ shafts (3, 3') together with the teeth thereof (4), being adapted to constitute at least a section of a support surface, upon which the presently processed trees (2) travel through the debarking mechanism (4), and ~~said the~~ debarking shafts (3, 3') being adapted to each other in such a way that the presently processed trees (2) make a circular motion (C) in the debarking mechanism, in which motion the trees (2) are forced upon the support surface constituted by the debarking shafts (3, 3') effected by the rotatory motion (5) of the debarking shafts (3, 3') in their turn into the upper position, from which they roll down above the other trees (2) in the debarking machine (4) into the lower position. The uppermost debarking shaft (3') has been fitted together with a guiding surface (8), ~~said the~~ surface together with the uppermost debarking shaft (3') forming a slot (9) convergent in the direction of rotation (5) of the debarking shaft (3').